

Philadelphia, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) attended the Kosciuszko Ceremony, hosted by the Polish American Community, today. The event celebrates the life of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, an American Revolutionary War Hero and a Freedom Fighter for Poland. The event also included a presentation of colors by Frankford High School ROTC. During the event, the Congressman spoke about the monumental contributions from Polish-American throughout the United States history. There are nearly 40,000 Polish-Americans in the 7th Congressional District, which represents almost 6% of the total citizenry.

“It was approximately 400 years ago that the first Polish settlers arrived in what is now the United States, and their contributions to American society over these centuries are too numerous to count,” said the Congressman. “They range from Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who came from his native Poland hundreds of years ago to help the American colonists fight for freedom to Frank Piasecki, an aviation engineer who pioneered dual-rotor helicopters. I look forward to the many accomplishments that are to come from this vibrant community. Sto lat!”

The life of Mr. Kosciuszko is particularly interesting. He was born in Poland on February 4, 1746, son of Ludwik and Tekla Kosciuszko. He attended school in Lubieszow and then the Cadet Academy in Warsaw before continuing his engineering studies in Paris, France. By the time Kosciuszko arrived in America from Poland in 1776, he was a skilled engineer who came to offer his services to the American colonies in their struggle for independence. His contributions to American independence are particularly noteworthy and the event appropriately commemorated his valor, determination, and spirit.

Congressman Sestak concluded the event exclaiming proudly, “I was proud to this ceremony today with so many of my constituents” noted Joe. “Whether it’s meeting with the Polish-American community, the Chinese-American community, the Irish community, the Asian-Pacific American community, or other communities, our District has a rich cultural heritage and the Polish-American community is a strong part of it. Today’s memorial event demonstrates the tremendous work this community does to organize patriotic, historical, education, and civic events that enhance positive public awareness of Polish causes, traditions, and the many contributions of persons of Polish descent.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in*

*Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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